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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Carpi et al. Examiner: Young, Christopher G.  
Filed: 10/067,703 Art Unit: 1756  
Filed: February 5, 2002 Docket: P2003,0007USE (8055-113)  
For: **MASK ALIGNMENT METHOD**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Examiner:

In response to the Office Action dated February 9, 2004, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group II (claims 5-13).

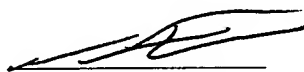
The Examiner is respectfully urged to maintain claims 1-13, including Group I and Group II, in the same application. As set forth in MPEP §803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent and distinct inventions.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 9, 2004.

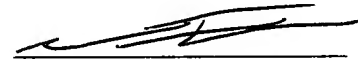
Dated: 3/9/04

  
Nathaniel T. Wallace

Examiner stated that the Group I, claims 1-4, are classified in class 430, subclass 22, and the Group II, claims 5-13, are classified in class 430, subclass 5. While the process of the Group I and the product and process of Group II may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, Applicants believe that simultaneous examination will not present an undue burden. For example, both Group I and Group II have been classified under class 430. Under such circumstances, the Examiner is encouraged to maintain all claims in the same application.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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